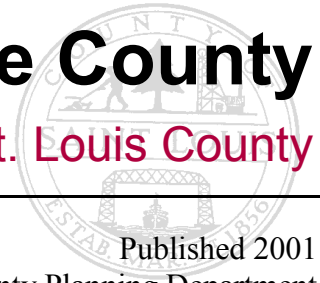


State of the County

A Statistical Portrait of St. Louis County



Published 2001

St. Louis County Planning Department
901 Missabe Building
227 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: (218) 725-5000
Fax: (218) 725-5029
www.co.st-louis.mn.us

County Commissioners

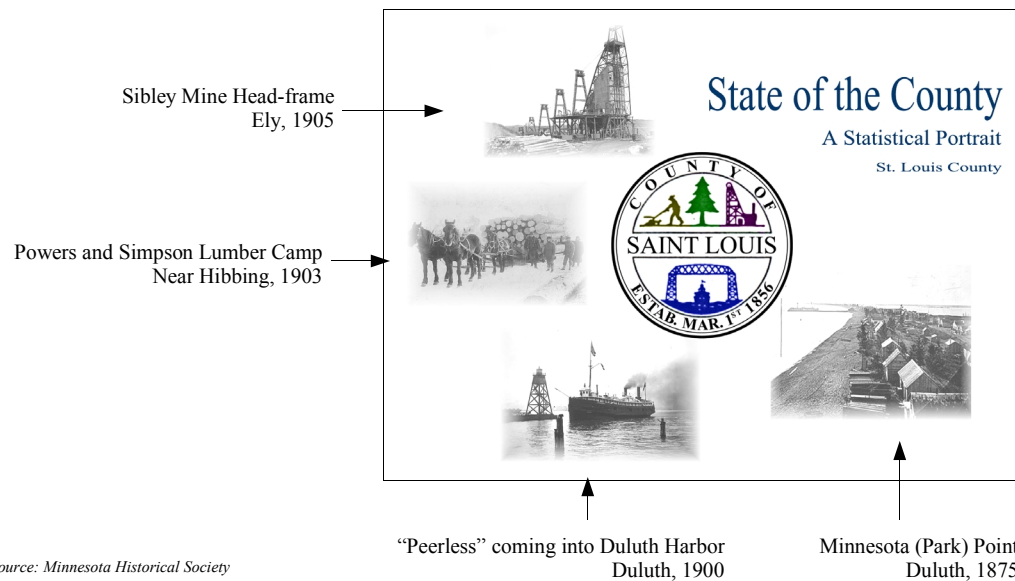
Dennis Fink	1st District
Joanne Fay	2nd District
Bill Kron	3rd District
Michael Forsman	4th District
Peg Sweeney	5th District
Paul Plesha	6th District
Steve Raukar	7th District

County Administrator
David Twa

Planning Director
Barbara Hayden

Contact Information
Darren Jablonsky
Planning Department
901 Missabe Building
227 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 725-5011

Email: jablonskyd@co.st-louis.mn.us



Source: Minnesota Historical Society

Report Prepared by
Jane Gilley
Lisa Potswald
Darren Jablonksy
Bruce Grohn

Contributors
Debbie Brouse
Audrey Schoenborn
Sue Cebelinski
Marianne Ritari
Lisa Schutz
Mark Johnson

This report is available on the St. Louis County's web site in the Planning Department's section at:
www.co.st-louis.mn.us/planning/planning.htm



Introduction

St. Louis County

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Saint Louis County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BILL KRON
County Commissioner

Dear County Residents:

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the “*State of the County, A Statistical Portrait of St. Louis County.*”

The report provides a statistical portrait or snapshot of St. Louis County. It is intended to capture past changes and indicate future trends. It is a dynamic report that presents a broad array of information about St. Louis County in an easy-to-read format. It highlights differences within the county and, most of all, differences over time. Comparisons are made between St. Louis County and state, metropolitan and national trends.

Specific questions about the report should be directed to the St. Louis County Planning Department.

St. Louis County is a wonderful place to live, work and play. We have a great deal to be proud of, but must continue to look at ways to improve. It is important for the county and organizations within the county to set future direction based on solid data. We hope that this report will assist in establishing strategic policies for the residents of St. Louis County.

We have experienced times of tremendous growth and times of economic downturn, but we continue to rely on the strength of our citizens. Together we look forward to a promising future in St. Louis County.

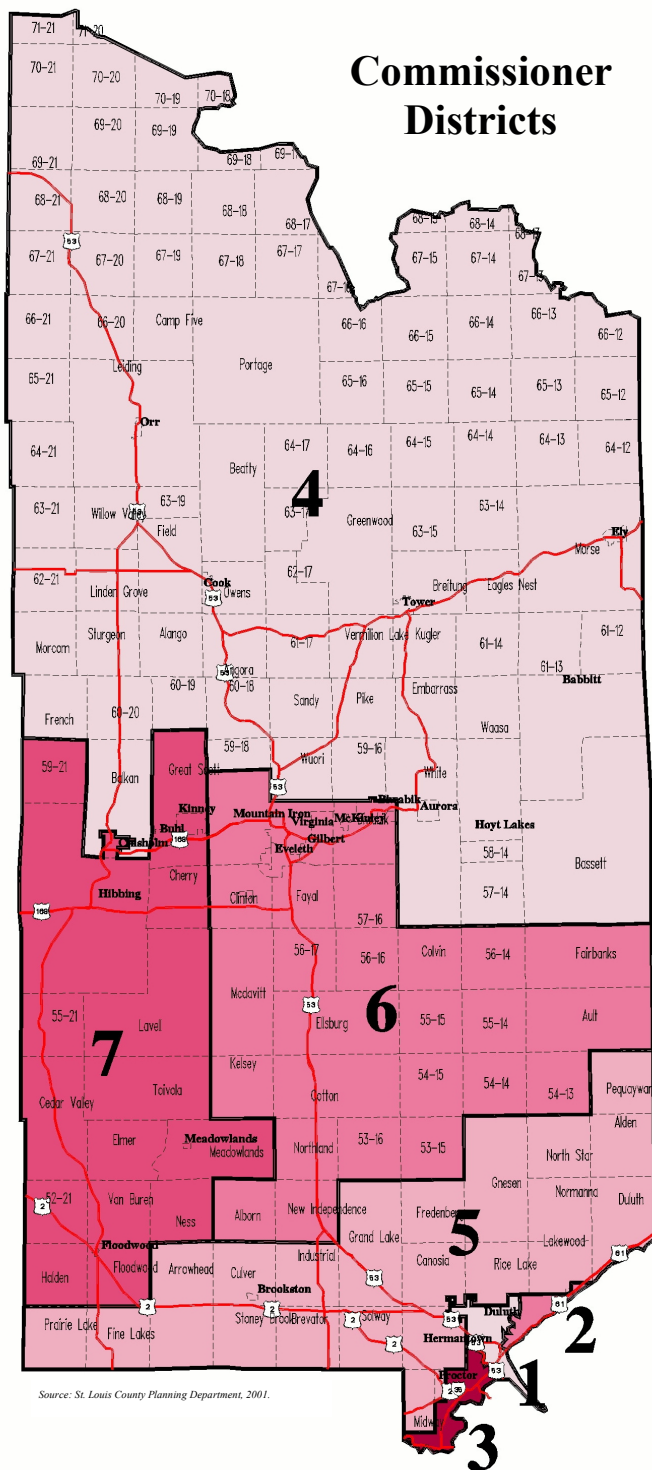
Sincerely,

Bill Kron
Chair, St. Louis County Board of Commissioners
Commissioner 3rd District

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
100 North 5th Avenue West, #207
Duluth, MN 55802-1292

PHONE: 218-726-2450
FAX: 218-726-2469
E-MAIL: kronb@co.st-louis.mn.us

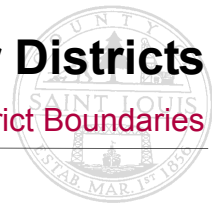
Commissioner Districts



Source: St. Louis County Planning Department, 2001.

Maps - Commissioner Districts

St. Louis County's Commissioner District Boundaries



1st District

Dennis Fink
St. Louis County Courthouse
100 N. 5th Avenue West, Room #208
Duluth, MN 55802-1292
(218) 726-2458
email: finkd@co.st-louis.mn.us



2nd District

Joanne Fay
St. Louis County Courthouse
100 N. 5th Avenue West, Room #208
Duluth, MN 55802-1292
(218) 726-2458
email: fayj@co.st-louis.mn.us



3rd District

Bill Kron
St. Louis County Courthouse
100 N. 5th Avenue West, Room #208
Duluth, MN 55802-1292
(218) 726-2562
email: kronb@co.st-louis.mn.us



4th District

Michael Forsman
Government Services Center
118 S. 4th Avenue East
Ely, MN 55731
(218) 365-8200
email: forsmannm@co.st-louis.mn.us



5th District

Peg Sweeney
St. Louis County Courthouse
100 N. 5th Avenue West, Room #208
Duluth, MN 55802-1292
(218) 726-2562
email: sweeneyp@co.st-louis.mn.us



6th District

Paul Plesha
Virginia Courthouse
300 S. 5th Avenue
Virginia, MN 55792
(218) 749-7108
email: pleshap@co.st-louis.mn.us



7th District

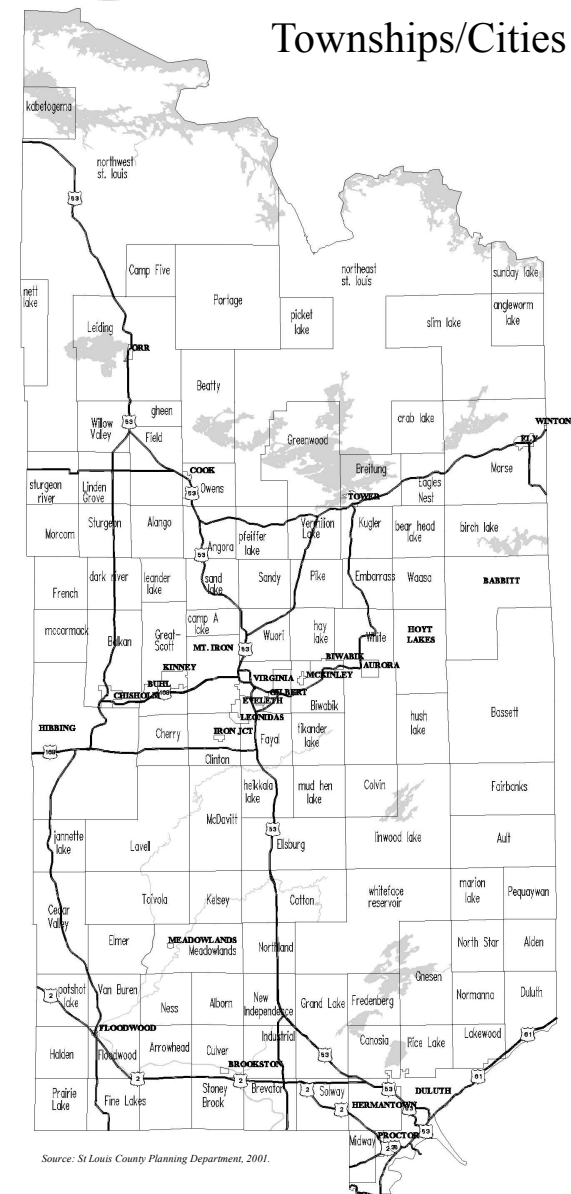
Steve Raukar
Hibbing Courthouse
1810 12th Avenue East
Hibbing, MN 55746
(218) 262-0100
email: raukars@co.st-louis.mn.us



Source: St. Louis County Planning Department, 2001.

Facts and Figures

St. Louis County's Facts and Figures



Source: St. Louis County Planning Department, 2001.

St. Louis County Government and Area

County Commissioners	7 (elected)
Terms	Staggered 4 year terms
County Seat	Duluth
2001 Budget Revenue	\$246 million
Number of Towns and Unorganized Townships	
Organized towns	70
Unorganized townships	80
Number of Cities	25
Total Square Miles	7,092 sq. miles (3rd largest in U.S.)
Number of Lakes	1,040
Water Surface Area	775 sq. miles

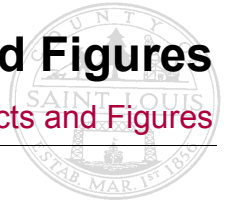
City Government

	Duluth	Hibbing	Virginia	Chisholm	Hermantown
Form of Government	Mayor-Council	Mayor-Council	Mayor-Council	Mayor-Council	Mayor-Council
Mayor	Gary L. Doty	Pru Lolich	Carolyn Gentilini	John Champa	David Allen
Number of Council Members	9	7	6	5	4
Land Area Sq. Miles	67.61	181.68	16.83	4.4	34.34
Population 2000	86,918	17,071	9,157	4,960	7,448

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. www.census.gov

Facts and Figures

St. Louis County's Facts and Figures



Comparable Sizes

2000	Land Area Sq. Miles	Population
District of Columbia	61	572,059
Rhode Island	1,045	1,048,319
Delaware	1,954	783,600
Connecticut	4,845	3,405,565
St. Louis County Total sq. miles: 7,092 Land area sq. miles: 6,226	6,226	200,528
Hawaii	6,423	1,211,537
New Jersey	7,417	8,414,350

Density and What if...?

2000	Density Persons Per Sq. Mile	What if the population of St. Louis County had the same density as It would have 2 citizens.
Alaska	1.1	6,848
St. Louis County	32.2	200,528
Minnesota	61.8	384,767
U.S.A.	79.6	495,590
Connecticut	702.9	4,376,255
New Jersey	1,134.5	7,063,397
Hennepin County, MN	2,003.9	12,476,281
Bronx County, NY	31,729.8	197,549,735
New York County, NY	66,834.6	416,112,220

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, State and County QuickFacts (Land Area and Density Per Square Mile), www.census.gov.
Note: The figures are based upon available land area, water area is included in estimates.

How Large is St. Louis County?



How large is the County

- As the "crow flies", it is the same distance to go from:
 - Duluth to St. Paul: 136 miles
 - Duluth to the NW corner of St. Louis County: 135 miles
- To drive, it is a different story:
 - Duluth to St. Paul: 150 miles
 - Duluth to the NW corner of St. Louis County: 152 miles*

* Only if you can make it through the last stretch of wilderness and rugged terrain.

St. Louis County is larger than the COMBINED land areas of the following Counties

- Anoka
- Benton
- Carver
- Chisago
- Dakota
- Hennepin
- Isanti
- Le Sueur
- Nicollet
- Ramsey
- Rice
- Scott
- Sherburne
- Waseca
- Washington
- Wright

... and with more land to spare!

Source: St. Louis County Planning Department, 2001.



Facts and Figures

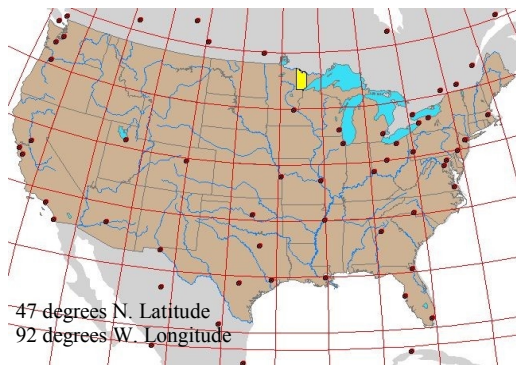
St. Louis County's Facts and Figures

	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Weather				
Averages 1961-1990	Duluth Airport	Duluth Harbor	Hibbing	Mpls.
Average Yearly Temperature	38.5	40.3	37.4	44.9
July Average	66.1	66.1	65.6	73.6
January Average	7.0	11.1	4.1	11.8
Average Precipitation (inches)	30.0	26.9	24.9	28.3
Average Snowfall (inches)	79.2	40.9	58.6	57.4
Ave. date of first 1" snow cover	Nov 7	NA	Nov 11	Nov 22
Ave. date of last 1" snow cover	April 13		April 15	April 2
Sunrise to Sunset				
Clear Days	76.2	NA	NA	96.1
Partly Cloudy Days	100.5			100.8
Cloudy Days	184.7			168.1

Source: State Climatology Office, MN Extension Climatology Office, Academic Climatology, <http://climate.umn.edu/averages/1961-1990>.

Note: Snow cover averages, 1959-1979: Climate in MN, Part XIII—Duration and Depth of Snow Cover.

USA/Worldwide Cities Within the Same Latitude Zone as St. Louis County



47 degrees N. Latitude
92 degrees W. Longitude

Source: St. Louis County Planning Department, 2007.

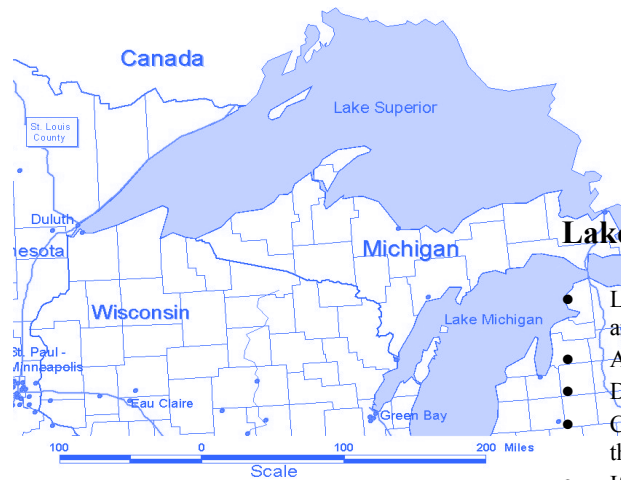
U.S. Cities

Seattle, WA
Fargo, ND
Helena, MT

Worldwide Cities

Paris, France
Munich, Germany
Vienna, Austria
Quebec, Canada
Budapest, Hungary
Rostov, Russia

Lake Superior is Superior!



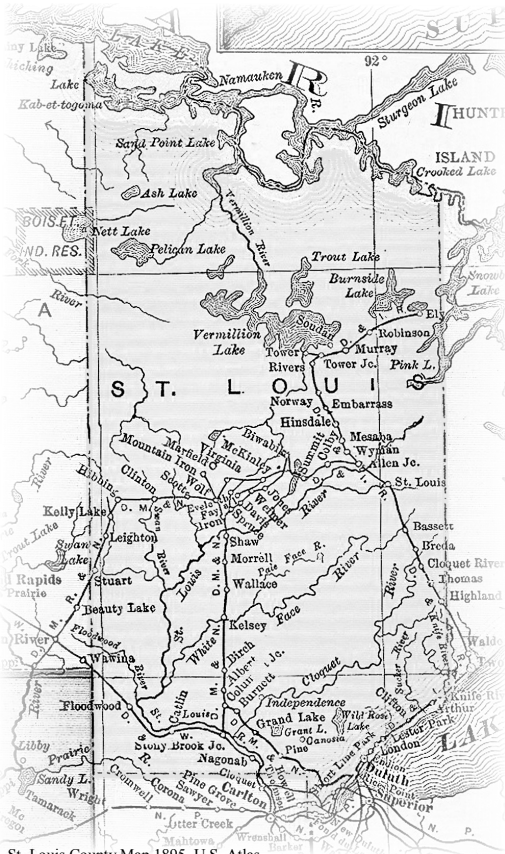
Lake Superior: Facts and Figures

- Largest fresh water lake (by surface area) in the world
- Average depth: 483 feet
- Deepest point: 1,333 feet
- Contains 10% of all the fresh water in the world
- If Lake Superior's entire surface froze, there would be enough room for every person on the earth to spread out a picnic blanket 12'x12'
- Final resting place of more than 350 shipwrecks
- 90% of Lake Superior's watershed is forested
- Shoreline length, including islands: 2,726 miles
- Home to more than 1,400 islands
- Is large enough to contain all the other Great Lakes, plus three additional lakes the size of Lake Erie
- Named by French explorers as "Le Lac Supérieur," meaning "upper lake"
- Average water temperature: 40 degrees
- Could cover all of North America in water three feet deep

Water Worldwide: Facts and Figures

- 80% of the earth's surface is covered in water
- 97% of the world's water is salt water
- 2% of the world's water is frozen in glaciers
- 1% of the world's water is fresh water lakes, rivers and streams
- Of the fresh water used in the U.S. in 1990, it was used for:
 - Irrigation: 40%
 - Thermoelectric power: 39%
 - Public supply: 11%
 - Industry: 6%
 - Livestock: 1%
 - Domestic: 1%
 - Mining: 1%
 - Commercial: 1%

Source: Stats. and Facts, Great Lakes Aquarium, 2000; www.glaquarium.org.



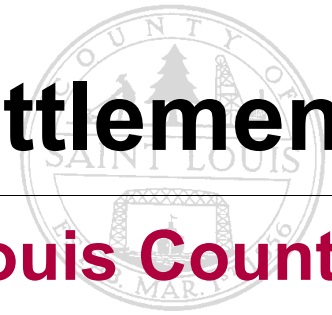
St. Louis County Map 1895, U.S. Atlas



View of Duluth, 1870, MN Historical Society- Charles Alfred Zimmerman

History and Settlement

St. Louis County



Luella Forepaugh-Fish Wild West Show Parade, Hibbing 1903, MN Historical Society



History

St. Louis County's Settlement

Early Formation

About 12,000 years ago, Duluth was under ice one mile high. When the Glacial Lake Duluth retreated, bison and mammoths roamed throughout the region. The first settlers were the Paleo Indians, who arrived 7,000 years ago.

The Paleo Indians were the first of many people to live out their lives and histories in what is now St. Louis County. The Shield Archaic mined copper in northwestern Wisconsin, making tools, fish hooks, and ceremonial objects out of the metal. Mound Builders began harvesting wild rice and creating pottery. Their mounds, some of which are still present in the area, are testament to their ingenious culture. The Terminal Woodland people, the ancestors of St. Louis County's Anishinabe, flourished until the arrival of French explorers and traders in the 1600's.

Native Americans

Prior to the middle of the 19th century, white settlements were practically unknown within St. Louis County. Radisson and Groseilier explored the area in 1654, and Sieur du Luth opened up the fur trade within the county in 1679. The first permanent fur trading post was probably built in 1793 by Jean Baptiste Perrault near the natural entrance to the Duluth Harbor, but



Augenosh of Duluth, 1870, MN Historical Society

no permanent white communities were established until after 1854. For nearly 200 years, the county was considered Indian territory, where only those with fur traders' licenses were allowed to remain. Outposts from three Indian nations (Ojibwe, Dakota, Chippewa) were thinly spread across much of St. Louis County during this long interval.

The settlement history of St. Louis County stems from the La Pointe Treaty of 1854, by which bands of Chippewa relinquished rights to the vast area of northeastern Minnesota. In return for a land ultimately worth billions, they received the Fond du Lac Reservation and one million dollars. This opened up the north shore to white settlement, with most of the early settlers drawn to the area by a "copper rush", hoping to stake valuable claims in nearby inland regions.

Today there are two Anishinabe reservations located in St. Louis County: Bois Forte and Fond du Lac. Reservations are segments of land that belong to one or more groups of American Indians, retained by the tribes after ceding large portions of their original homelands to the United States through treaty agreements. Bois Forte is located in Koochiching and St. Louis Counties, with the tribal headquarters in Nett Lake, Minnesota. Fond du Lac is located in Carlton and St. Louis Counties, with



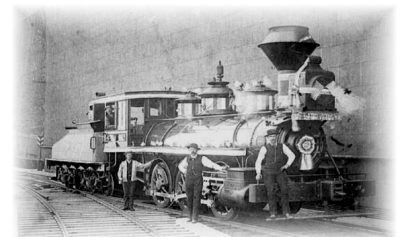
Tower Indian Res., 1915, MN Historical Society

tribal headquarters in Cloquet, Minnesota. These reservations are self-governed by Reservation Business Committees and manage their own economic development, social service and law enforcement programs.

Early Settlements

In 1856, St. Louis County was established in the Territory of Minnesota. The county was named for the St. Louis River, which had been named by the French explorer Verendrye in honor of being awarded the order of St. Louis by the King of France in 1749. Upon becoming established as a county, the first permanent settlers arrived in the area of present Duluth, and a number of new towns were platted. After surviving a severe financial setback and scarlet fever epidemic in 1857, the tiny settlements began to grow. Only meager gains were made up to the late 1860's. The census of 1860 disclosed the total population of St. Louis County was 406 people, of which 80 were located in Duluth.

The building of a railroad to Duluth, shortly before 1870, marked the true beginnings of population growth in the county. Hundreds of people from Eastern United States and Europe began to arrive each month. From a population of about 100 people in 1869, Duluth swelled to over 3,000 and the county to 4,561 by the time of the 1870 census. A post office and a tiny settlement, the remnants of a short-lived gold rush of 1865, was located on Lake Vermilion in the



Railroad Crew near Duluth, 1880, MN Historical Society

northern part of the county.

Duluth was formally chartered as a city, and its population rose to about 5,000 by 1873. During the panic of 1873, the financial empire of Jay Cooke collapsed. This was a major blow to the city and entire county. The population of Duluth shrank to about 1,500. The city dissolved the council and reverted to village status in 1877. However, grain and timber shipments bolstered the economy, and by 1880, the county population had rebounded to 4,502, with 3,483 of those people located in the Duluth area.

The 1880's heralded the boom years of Duluth and St. Louis County. In 1884, the first iron ore left Soudan on the Vermilion Range. The Mountain Iron mining camp was established in 1889.

By 1890, Duluth's population had risen to over 33,000.



Logging Train, 1885, MN Historical Society

With the growth of the logging industry, the arrival of large numbers of homesteaders, and the promises held out by the infant mining camps, the county population had increased

nearly ten-fold over the previous census year of 1880.

The vast majority of the population were foreign-born immigrants. The first wave of people to the Iron Range in the 1890's were Americans, English, Scotch, Irish, French Canadians, Canadians, Scandinavians, and Finns, as well as a few Slovenians.

After 1900, Slovenians began to arrive in considerable numbers, which included Slovenes, Croates, and Serbs. This influx also included: Montenegrins, Italians, Bulgarians, Greeks, Poles, Russians, and others. At the height of the population influx to the Range in about 1910, there were at least thirty-five ethnic groups of sufficient size to be commonly recognized. Thus, subsequent social and cultural patterns in the county, particularly on the Iron



A Street Scene, Cook 1905, MN Historical Society

Range, were strongly influenced by this unique settlement pattern.

Early Economy

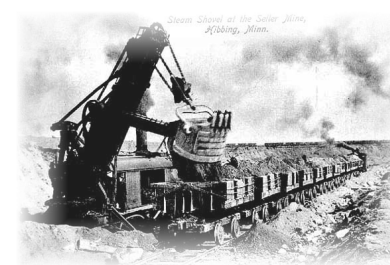
During the 1890's, Duluth and the county experienced a rapid rate of growth. By 1900, Duluth was firmly established as a major port. Shipments of iron ore, lumber, grain, and general merchandise totaled nearly twelve million tons per year. The population of St. Louis County had risen to 82,932 by the turn of the century. Besides Duluth, the major concentration



Steamer City of Duluth, 1875, MN Historical Society

was among the new and expanding Range communities. Ely was the largest community followed by Tower-Soudan, Virginia, Hibbing, and Eveleth.

It was also during this period that agriculture became noticeable in the county's economy. Although a few homesteaders had taken up land shortly after the Civil War and many more arrived during the 1880's, the county was generally considered poor farm land because of the severe weather and thick forests. Farm lands were initially claimed for their stands of virgin pine. As log-



Sellers Mine Hibbing, 1909, MN Historical Society

ging interests moved north and west, extensive areas of marginal agricultural land were cut over and left open. Railroads, initially developed for the timber and mining industry, aided farming after

1900. Many dissatisfied mine workers turned to agriculture to make their living. Expanding local market and the development of rapid transportation made agricultural settlements a reality. In 1910, there were 2,465 farms with over 40,000 acres.

From the 1920's to today, St. Louis County's population has remained relatively stable. In 1920, the county's population was 206,391 and the 2000 population was 200,528. Many major events occurred during this time period that had enormous impact on the county such as: the Great Depression, World War II, and mining collapse of the early 1980's.

Source: St. Louis County Situational Analysis, 1984; Exploring St. Louis County's Historical Sites, 1967; The Spirit of St. Louis newsletter.



History

St. Louis County's Timeline

